Walt Whitman wrote “I Hear America Singing” as a catalogue poem, listing the professions of the common people and the songs they sing as they vigorously pursue their tasks. Through his list he reveals the joy and vibrancy of the American democratic ideal.

PROMPT

***What do you hear or see? What can you express about America, your country of origin, or your community through a catalogue poem? What impressions do you want others to have of this place?***

* Write catalogue poem in which you use a **similar parallel structure** to “I Hear America Singing.”
* Make sure it is at least **ten lines long**.
* **Word process your poem using any font** you think is appropriate to your theme.
* Make sure your **name** is on your poem!
* **Practice reading** it because you will read it aloud in class.
* **Use free verse**: it does not have to rhyme.
* **Use the cadence of natural speech** to enhance your poem.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rubric** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Length** | Poem is 10 or more lines long | Poem is 8-10 lines long | Poem is less than 8 lines long | Poem is too short to assess. |
| **Parallel structure** | Poem uses a catalogue and parallel structure similar to that of Walt Whitman | Poem attempts catalogue and parallel structure but is not completely successful | Poem as a few places that demonstrate understanding of catalogue and parallel structure but is not sufficient | Poem does not reflect an understanding of catalogue or parallel structure. |
| **Setting** | Poem is clearly about one specific country or community | Poem is vaguely about one specific country or community | Poem is too general to place a specific country or community | Poem is not about a country or community |
| **Theme** | Poem reveals a theme or attitude about a specific country or community | Poem partially reveals a theme or attitude about a specific country or community | Poem vaguely reveals a theme or attitude about a specific country or community | Poem does not attempt to reveal a theme or attitude about a specific country or community |
| **Free verse**  **Cadence** | Free verse and cadence create an aesthetic experience for the reader. | Poem demonstrates an understanding of free verse and cadence | Poem makes an attempt at free verse and cadence | Poem is rhyming and shows no understanding of rhythm and cadence in text |

Poem is due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Attach this rubric to your poem.